Message Text

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN HELSINKI

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TO AMBASSADOR VOLPE FROM SONNENFELDT

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, IT

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON

QUADRIPARTITE LUNCH

1. FOLLOWING IS A QUESTION PUT BY AN ITALIAN JOURNALIST TO THE SECRETARY DURING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE THIS EVENING THE SUBJECT WE DISCUSSED BY TELEPHONE EARLIER TODAY. AND THE SECRETARY'S RESPONSE.

2. Q: MR. SECRETARY, THERE HAS BEEN DIFFERING INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE FOUR POWER EUROPEAN MEETING THAT IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE. SOME HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WILL BE DISCUSSED AND POSSIBLY A FOUR OR FIVE POWER ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE ESTABLISHED. TODAY AN ITALIAN SPOKESMAN DENIED THIS. HE SAID THAT THE US HAS COMMUNICATED TO THEM THAT ECONOMIC SUBJECTS WILL NOT BE TOUCHED ON AT ALL. CAN YOU STATE WHAT THE SITUATION IS IN FACT?

A: THE SITUATION IS THAT THE FOUR POWERS WHICH HAVE
A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR BERLIN AND THAT MEET REGULARLY
AT EVERY NATO MEETING DECIDED TO USE THEIR PRESENCE
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AT THE EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE TO MEET ON

THAT ISSUE. WHILE THEY MEET IT IS OF COURSE POSSIBLE THAT OTHER ISSUES WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED; AND I WOULD CONSIDER IT POSSIBLE, IN FACT LIKELY, THAT ONE OF THE SEVERAL TOPICS THAT WILL COME UP WILL CONCERN ECONOMIC MATTERS. BUT BASICALLY IT IS AN INFORMAL MEETING OF THE FOUR COUNTRIES THAT HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR BERLIN, AND IT WAS THOUGHT BOTH SYMBOLICALLY AND SUBSTANTIVELY DESIRABLE THAT THESE FOUR COUNTRIES MEET. I CONSIDER IT EXTREMELY UNLIKELY - IN FACT I CONSIDER IMPOSSIBLE - THAT THERE WILL BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF A DIRECTORATE THAT WILL BE SET UP FOR ECONOMIC MATTERS, AND INDEED WE HAVE NO INTENT OF SETTING UP A DIRECTORATE FOR ECONOMIC MATTERS. KISSINGER

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